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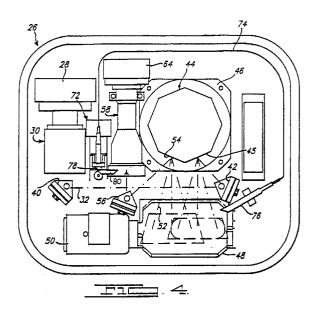
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Lidar scanning system.

(57) A LIDAR scanning system has a rotating multifaceted polygon mirror (44) for transmitting modulated light (32) from one of its facets (45) to a surface. Diffuse light (52) reflected off said surface is received by another facet (54) of the polygon mirror (44) and reflected to a photo detector (64). The phase difference between the transmitted and received light (32, 52) is then used to compute the range of the surface from the scanning system. The intensity of the returned light is used to create a gray scale image of the surface. The use of separate optical paths for the transmitted (32) and returned (52) light, and a small scanned field of view results in an improved signal-to-noise ratio.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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A	US-A-3 813 140 (KNOCKEART) * column 3, line 7 - column *	6, line 51; figures	1,3,5-9	G01S7/48	
A	US-A-3 523 730 (HAYEK ET AL * column 2 - column 4; figu		1		
A	US-A-4 627 734 (RIOUX) * abstract; figures *		1,6		
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